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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Dresden Reaction to East Berlin Riots

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1. The situation in [redacted] Dresden, Soviet Zone of Germany, is tense as an aftermath of the riots in East Berlin.

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3. The letter is written in German. Following is a free and somewhat literal translation [redacted] of the non-personal part of the contents:
4. "Many things have happened which you will probably have heard about. We are still all together and healthy. Do not worry about us. Let's hope there is no war.
5. "It is now 11:30 (pm). Everything is quiet on the street; nobody goes outside -- or he will get something over the hat [a German expression for 'you will be punished']".
6. "Meanwhile eight days have passed. Everything is quiet again in the state of Denmark. Our friends [the Soviets] brought in some cute machines [tanks?]. Pain to him who moves. But now we can again go to the opera because we can stay out longer on the streets (until 11:00 pm, previously until 9:00).
7. "The food situation is supposed to get better; previously there was neither butter, margarine nor sugar one could buy. A great majority of the self-employed merchants suddenly received coupons no longer. Imagine that! Because of that we all were very furious. However, they are supposed to get them again this month. The government has admitted these mistakes. When the small man made such mistakes he went to the penitentiary. Yes, everyone was threatened by the penitentiary, even when he took a briquet or a similar article from a people's owned shop. [redacted] the H-O [Handelsorganisation, government owned department stores] we were threatened with 'if the inventory doesn't add up, you will go to the penitentiary.' This is unbearable for honest working people. They stand beside a stenographer with a stop watch. However, when they attempted to clock every phase [redacted]

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refused to work under such conditions. This, too, is supposed to get milder. The people spoke clearly. Defenseless workers demonstrated. Tanks helped the Communists.

8. "Today, Walter Ulbricht /Communist Deputy Premier/ received a medal for his mistakes -- isn't that grand."

9. In paragraph 6 reference is made to "our friends." [REDACTED] uses this term frequently [REDACTED] letters [REDACTED] speaks about the Soviets.

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